

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Action Plan for A5 and A6 Programs (Plan under separate cover)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158:645, KRS 158.6455, 703 KAR 5:050, 703 KAR 5:070, 703 KAR 5:040

History/Background:

Since 2006, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has contracted with the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) and Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) to conduct two separate studies about the quality of educational services provided in alternative education programs (A5 and A6). A summary of these projects, including a timeline, is included below.

June 2006: The KCSS presented findings of the monitoring process of 40 A5 programs. As a result of concerns revealed from the monitoring, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) directed KDE to send correspondence to all superintendents regarding the need to provide quality services in alternative education programs. KBE also approved a plan for KDE to issue a Request for Proposal for an outside agency to conduct a yearlong in-depth study of alternative education programs (A5 and A6) in Kentucky. *Note: In August, the contract was awarded to Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA).*

December 2006: Representatives from Kentucky Youth Advocates presented information to KBE regarding progress and findings, to date, of the project to study alternative education programs. KYA informed KBE that the study will be completed at the end of the 2006-07 school year, and findings and recommendations for improvement will be provided at the October 2007 meeting of the KBE.

October 2007: Kentucky Youth Advocates presented findings of the review of alternative education programs (A5 and A6) conducted during the 2006-07 school year. Although certain alternative programs were commended for offering exemplary education services, concerns were expressed about the quality of services offered in other programs. In its report, KYA included a set of recommendations for improvement of services.

After thoughtful consideration of the findings from the KCSS report and a review of findings and recommendations from KYA, an Action Plan for Alternative Education Programs (A5 and A6) was created by KDE. The Action Plan will be provided to KBE under separate cover.

A meeting of the Alternative Education Advisory Committee (AEAC) was held in mid-December to review the Action Plan. The membership of this committee represents alternative program administrators and teachers, directors of educational cooperatives, school district superintendents, and representatives from various state agencies (Attachment A). The primary purpose of the meeting was to gather input from the committee members in regard to KDE's plan to improve services. A series of focus questions was provided to committee members to facilitate their discussions about the various components included in the Action Plan. The focus questions were created around four issues: 1) Accountability; 2) Administrative Structure; 3) Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, and 4) School Culture. The focus questions, and the committee's comments and considerations have been compiled (Attachment B).

The Action Plan for Alternative Education Programs (A5 and A6) will be presented to KBE during the February 2008 meeting for reaction and input.

Policy Issue(s):

What guidance does the Kentucky Board of Education have for staff on the Action Plan for Alternative Education Programs (A5 and A6)?

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Increasing numbers of Kentucky students are receiving educational services in alternative education programs. As these numbers of students grow, the quality of education services they receive in these programs becomes increasingly important in regard to reaching proficiency. It is imperative that a process be implemented to ensure these students are receiving equitable educational services.

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Date:

February 2008